

**Summary of Major Provisions of
H.R.5450, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act,**

The legislation establishes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the Department of Commerce.

The legislation maintains the current leadership structure at NOAA except that it creates a new position of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science and Education. It requires the Secretary of Commerce to maintain the National Weather Service within NOAA. The legislation describes programs to support the operations and services, and the research and education functions of NOAA. The legislation authorizes the NOAA Science Advisory Board.

The legislation requires NOAA to contract with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to assess the adequacy of the environmental data and information systems of NOAA. It requires NOAA to provide two strategic plans: one to address any deficiencies identified by the NAS data and information system assessment and the second for intramural and extramural research to support the mission of NOAA. The legislation requires NOAA to review its policy on public-private relationships once every five years. It also requires NOAA to submit a reorganization plan to Congress 18 months after enactment of the legislation.

The legislation repeals the Executive Order that established NOAA in 1970 and includes a savings provision to preserve the status of all current NOAA rules, regulations and other legal matters. The legislation prohibits NOAA from contracting for activities or procurement of goods or services that are performed outside the United States, except in some limited circumstances and when the prohibition would be inconsistent with trade agreements.

The legislation requires NOAA to notify Congress and the public if it plans to close or transfer a NOAA facility. The legislation establishes conditions for development of major program cost baselines and requires notification to Congress when certain cost increases or schedule delays occur in major programs.

**Chairman Boehlert
House Science Committee**